#### NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

A VISIT TO POPOCATEPETL.

We have not been able until now to find room for the following interesting and valuable Letter from Lieut. BUCKNER, of the Sixth Regiment U. S. Infantry, to a personal friend of his, giving an account of the ascent, by a party of Officers of our Army, then stationed in the city of Mexico, to of the place, and, having hired a number of pack-mules, pro-Popocatepetl, and the present state of the crater of that Volcano. We could not, we believe, employ more to the satisfaction of our readers so much space as this Letter occupies in our columns.

CITY OF MEXICO, MAY 10, 1848. My DEAR FRIEND: In my last letter I promised you some account of an expedition to the southern part of the great basin of Mexico. The active duties of the last campaign prevented, during their continuance, any research into the beauties of this valley beyond the immediate vicinity of our camp; and we were forced to content ourselves for the time with a distant view of the mountain wall which shuts us out from the world. It was not until the period of comparative repose which has succeeded the expulsion of the enemy from is capital that an opportunity has been offered to become fully acquainted with the many interesting and highly beautiful scenes around us. This opportunity has been generally improved by the officers of the army, who, during their sojourn in the capital, have left unvisited few places that are remarkable for their natural beauty, or interesting from historical associations. Many excursions have extended to the remotest parts of the valley, and several have been carried beyond its limits into the beautiful and interesting regions

Amongst the objects which have excited our curiosity since the entrance of our army into the valley, and even long be, fore that period, is the volcano of Popocatepetl. Rearing its which extends a little distance into the plain, and, following and Amecameca, and in concentrating at the latter place, on snowy summit far into the region of the clouds, it has been, since we first ascended to the table-lands, the most conspicuous object in our view; and I am not surprised that, in its active state, it should have excited the wonder and admiration of the Spaniards, and impressed the natives with a feeling of superstition and religious awe.

Indeed, the appearance presented by this mountain, in connexion with the views of its scarcely less beautiful neighbor, Iztaccihuatl, or "The White Woman," is imposing in the highest degree. Cortes, in his correspondence with the Emperor Charles V, makes frequent allusion to Popocatepetl, or The Mountain that Smokes :" and that you may form an idea of its volcanic condition in that age, I will give you a translation of a paragraph of his first letter to his sovereign, respecting the conquest of Mexico. He says, alluding to Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl:

"Eight leagues from Chohela are met two chains of very mits are covered with snow in the more remarkable as their summits are covered with snow in the month of August, and as there issues from one of them many times during the day and night very considerable volumes of fire, the smoke of which rises to the clouds with so great a force that that of the winds, however great it may be in that elevated region, cannot change its vertical direction. In order to give your Majesty the most particular account of the singular objects of this country, I chose ten of my companions, such as were fitted for a discovery of this nature; I caused them to be accompanied by some Indians of the country, who served them as guides; and I directed them to use all their efforts to reach the summit of the nountain chain, and ascertain whence the smoke proceeded: but it was impossible for them to reach it on account of the abundance of the snows, of the whirlwinds of ashes with abundance of the snows, of the whirlwinds of ashes with which the height is constantly surrounded, and of the exces-sive cold that is felt there. They approached the summit as closely as was practicable for them; and while at the most elevated point to which they had been able to ascend, the smake issued with so much noise and impetuosity that the mountain appeared to be giving way. They brought back from their journey only some snow and ice—objects sufficiently curious in a country situated under the twentieth degree of latitude, and where there is so considerable a degree of heat." [Corr. of Cortes, 1st Letter.

After this unsuccessful attempt to reach the summit of the mountain, Cortes pursued his march and entered the city of deep barrancas from the body of the mountain, and perceived on the snow by means of our pointed poles, and assisting our Mexico. But even in the midst of the wars in which he was at a single glance the tempestuous nature of our position, for footing in other places by the sharp stones, which were frozen subsequently involved with the Aztecs, he did not lose sight every tree upon its summit was scathed by lightning. From in the sand and protruded pemselves above its surface, we of the remarkable mountain which had excited, in so high a bere we obtained a view from the northwest to the southwest continued to ascend gradual but constantly towards the verdegree, his wonder and curiosity. He accordingly writes to of almost unlimited extent; for we had already ascended about tex of the two ridges which have been alluded to. As the his Majesty, after the fall of the capital, as follows : "I decided in our first moments of repose to acquire a more

ascending it there crose so thick a smoke that they could not and dared not advance to the place from which it ascended. I have caused others to ascend it since, who have clambered up twice, and advanced to the pit from which the smoke is-The diameter of the pit appeared equal to double deposites there. At one time they were very near it, when they heard so frightful a noise accompanying the elevation of the smoke, that they descended in all haste. They were not half way down the mountain when they found themt peril, on account of the quantity of stones which were rolling down, and which the volcano was ejecting. The Indians were stupified at the audacity of the Spaniards, and with the surprising act of bravery which induced them to approach so near the volcano."

[Cor. of Cortes, 2d Letter. From these extracts it would appear that the Spaniards did not succeed in reaching the summit of the mountain, although they approached very near the edge of the crater, which is little below the summit. Mr. Prescott has stated in his "History of the Conquest of Mexico," that, by the order of Cortes, a quantity of sulphur was procured from the crater, at a depth of more than four hundred feet. I do not know upon what authority this statement is based : but if upon that of Cortes, it is quite likely that Mr. Prescott has misconceived his meaning. It is the opinion of many, and amongst others, I believe, of Baron Humboldt, that the precipice whose " horrors," according to Cortes, were faced by the "intrepid Montano," was no other than that of an extinct volcano northwest him to chronicle so wonderful an achievement, is silent on the had greatly increased the difficulties we were to encounter. subject. In this state of uncertainty we might very reasonably be led to infer, from the above descriptions of the crater, that it could not have been entered at that time.

There is nothing on record to show that the summit had been attained, until about the year 1821, and again a few about seven o'clock on the morning of the 7th April, and conyears subsequently, when some scientific gentlemen accomplished the feat, and made known to the world the condition of the mountain at that time. As no Americans had accompanied either of these parties, many officers of the army de- most arduous part of our labors. The new-fallen snow, which move in a horizontal direct along the steep slope of the ridge termined, as much from national pride as individual curiosity, covered the soft sand to the depth of nearly a foot, yielding which forms the western lit of the valley in question, until, to attempt the ascent for the purpose of examining into the constantly to our steps, rendered the ascent toilsome in the having reached the bottomic resumed the painful ascent topresent state of the crater.

and several citizens, with an escort of about sixty men from over us all the morning finally burst around us in a terrific heavy tax upon all our eners. It was not only a laborious different corps of the army. We left the city of Mexico on storm of hail and snow, accompanied with a strong wind, task to pass in safety overhe smooth fields of snow, and the 3d of April, following the Puebla road until we approach which blinded us with the drifting eddies that were constantly amongst the wild crags whiobstructed our path; it required ed the hacienda of Bucna Vista, when, changing our direc- whirling in the air. We soon lost sight of every landmark also much caution to avoid also step, which might have pretion more to the south, we traversed the beautiful valley which could serve in any way to guide us. So dense were cipitated us far into the valledow. About six or eight hun which formerly constituted the province of Chalco; and, passing in our course near the base of the mountain chain which to distinguish an object at the distance of even forty yards; rocks which was at the he of the valley, and entered at forms the eastern boundary of the great basin, we reached on yet for a long time we continued to struggle against the op- once upon an extensive glar, which filled an indentation in the second day the factory of Mira Flores. This place, the posing elements, directing our course along what appeared to the conical part of the mornin, and extended almost to the residence of a most hospitable gentleman from Scotland, Mr. Robinson, is situated about thirty miles southeast of the city, practicable path over the precipices of the mountain. On we fatiguing portion of the asce The surface of the snow, which at the base of a low range of hills forming the southern boundary of the Mexican Valley, and which seems a spur of Iztac- our camp, a ridge of rocks, which seemed to extend in a rug- of the sun as to be incapatof sustaining our weight as we cihuati, jutting out across the plain until it connects with the ged line towards the summit. At this point we found our moved over the glacier tows a solitary rock, which, with the mountains forming the southwestern boundary of the valley. party reduced to four, who alone, of the entire number, had occasional pulls of smoke, keted us to the edge of the crater. This spur, or chain of heights, which is elevated but a few thus far overcome the difficulties which opposed us. Unwil- The air, too, had become much rarefied at this immense hundred feet above the plain, forms the ridge which divides ling to relinquish the attempt when we supposed it so nearly elevation as scarcely to aff enough oxygen to sustain life. the waters of the Valley of Mexico from those that flow into accomplished, we continued our route towards the top, scram-

o the undulating valley beyond, watered by the cold streams which fall from the mountains, and gradually de-scending as it sweeps around the base of Popocatepetl, into a the acclivity became so steep that, in order to make any furtierra caliente southwest of the mountain. It was the portion ther advance, we were obliged to climb to the top of the ridge ed; and we were much insmoded by inhaling the noxious of this fertile plain which we were now crossing, in the vicinity of Amecameca, that had greeted the sight of the Spaniards distance along the creet we had thus attained, we were stop-

tezuma. In their elevated position on the difficult path which led them between the two snow mountains, the view of this enchanted land, with its verdant fields and primeval forests and beautiful lakes, shut out from the world by a lofty chain of mountains which encircled it, burst upon them in all its

Having reached the village of Amecamera, situated in the midst of this beautiful plain, it became necessary to make some further preparations for the ascent of the mountain. We accordingly left our wagons in charge of the civil authoritie ceeded on the road towards the south until we reached the southerly direction that the summit of the mountain, which is

On the morning of the 6th we left Ozumba, and, bearing through the dense forest which skirts the base of the mountain to a vacaria, or pasturage for cattle, which is found near could induce these timid people to tempt by any further ad- possible, an impracticable way. vance the slumbering wrath of the mountain. Leaving Atlontla, our path conducted us across the cultivated fields which skirt the base of the mountain through a country intersected by the barraneas, or deep ravines were by the terrents of the rainy season, and affording issues for the waters which accuvegetation which grows upon the crests of the banks and overhangs the path, almost completely shelters it even from the blank to me, I cannot vouch for the truth of the assertion. heat of a vertical sun. Passing in this manner a distance of four or five miles, we reached a small spur of the mountain tain. In the mind of an American who had visited no other cent, would excite little surprise, and scarcely be deemed worof Mexico have found cause to lament that Nature, in many forest as dense as any which wave over our own fair land. The scenery grew more novel and romantic as we advanced, threading our way along the path, which became every moment more difficult. At length, after having proceeded four or five miles, climbing many a rugged ascent almost impassable by any thing but a Mexican mule, and winding in the dark shadow of the lofty pines along the crest of many a frightful precipice, we emerged from the dense forest into one of the many pasture grounds which cover some of the crests of suddenly commences. Ascending enhaps a thousand feet the mountain spurs, and form extensive openings in the forest. above our camp, we found it necessty, because of the steep-Ascending to the upper end of this prairie, we found a rude hut. about twelve feet square, constructed by the cowherds as a thus far in order to diminish as muq as possible the fatigues temporary shelter from the inclemencies of the weather. In of the ascent. Proceeding then onfoot, we reached, after a the bottom of a deep ravine which passed close by we found a considerable ascent, the lower termiation of the ridge we had small stream of water sufficient for our wants, and conse- encountered on the day of the firs attempt, and, leaving it quently pitched our camp at this spot.

It was about three o'clock in the afternoon when we reached this position. The day had been a beautiful one, and had of about thirty-five degrees, in se vicinity of the Pico del served to melt much of the snow which several preceding in- Fraile. The ascent had now beome very difficult, and was clement days had collected, to an unusual depth, on the moun- not entirely free from danger; fe the steep plain or valley was tain, and even in the forest, which extended more than a mile partially covered with fields of sow, which, after having beer shove our camp. Ascending a little higher than the camp, softened by the heat of the prvious day, was now hard fro we reached a projection of a spur almost entirely detached by zeu, and afforded a very inserte hold. Supporting ourselves four thousand feet above the beautiful plains below us, and lines which bounded the ingular plain we were ascending were more than eleven thousand feet above the ocean. In converged to a point, the innation became greater, and the "I decided in our first moments or repose to acquire a more paricular knowledge of the volcano of which I have spoken in my first letter, and from which there continually arose, in a right line, a thick smoke. The vulgar regarded this mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost before reaching the upper emination of this plain, the discovered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost before reaching the upper emination of this plain, the discovered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the acquire a more increasing rerefaction of the throughout the difficulty and fatigue.

Before reaching the upper emination of this plain, the discovered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the property of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend, covered almost of the mountain which we were yet to ascend. entirely with snow, but so enveloped in the clouds which were tant mountain chains and decayalleys were indistinctly visible gathering around it as to preclude the possibility of a proper reconnaissance of the route which we were to pursue on the following day.

we could get an occasional glimpse, our attention was attracted by the low murmurs of distant thunder to a scene of pecurange of a cross-bow, and the circumference about three-quarters of a league: its depth is incommensurable to the sight, list interest. At the distance of twenty or thirty miles in the direction of the capital we observed a heavy cloud rolling along be more beautiful or impressivehan the changing tints which the valley and darkening the distant lakes with its shadow. As it gradually approached and deluged the plains below us, the clouds continued to gather about the summit of the mountain until they finally burst in a heavy snow storm around it. We thus enjoyed, for some time, the singular spectacle of a all beyond the clearly defined to of shadow was glistening in thunder storm raging below and a snow storm above us, while the bright beams of the sun. we were ourselves in the sunlight, and beheld the broad valleys to the southwest shining in all the brightness of a cloudless day. As the shades of night closed around us, the clouds ritic mass shooting up like a nelle to the height of perhaps gathered about our camp, and we were soon in the midst of a eighty feet, was in plain view a but a short distance above heavy hailstorm. The scene now derived a new interest, as us. We reached this singulatork at twenty minutes past the vivid streams of light flashed around and below us, and seven o'clock A. M. It is situad about fifteen hundred feet exposed in their momentary gleams, the dark outlines of the from the peak of the mountainen a bold and rocky ridge, forest, while the loud crash of the thunder broke harshly on which extends in a southweste direction from the summit, the ear and died away in distant echoes amongst the wild and divides into the two ridges tween which we had ascend mountain crags.

It was our intention to make a very early start from our camp on the following morning, but the night was so tempestuous that we had to await for daylight. The morning was party to the appearance, at prt intervals, of light clouds of exceedingly unfavorable to the accomplishment of our purpose. The snow and hail had been falling almost constantly during of Tacuba. The meaning of Cortes is doubtful, and old the might, so that it now covered all the heights in our vicini-Bernal Diez, whose laste for the marvellous ought to have led ty as well as the ground upon which we were encamped, and The clouds still hung around the mountain, and promised any thing but a favorable day, and the snow extended more than six thousand feet from the summit.

Under these unfavorable circumstances, we left our camp tinuing our course through the part of the forest which still descend into this valley, with forms a practicable way through extended above us, we reached, after an ascent of perhaps a the rocky barriers. Havinpassed around the southern side of thousand feet, the limit of vegetation. Here commenced the the base of the Pico del Fre, we continued, for some time, to extreme as we clambered up the steepening acclivity. To said wards the crater. The exme rarefaction of the atmosphere The party consisted originally of about twenty-five officers to our other difficulties, the clouds which had been hanging added to the increasing daulties of the ascent, imposed the clouds in which we were enveloped that it was impossible dred feet above the Fraile, e clambered up a steep wall of be the steepest ascent, and trusting to fortune to guide us to a summit. The passage of s glacier was by far the most toiled until we reached, about two or three thousand feet above had now become very deep,d been so softened by the warmth bling as well as possible along the northern declivity of the found it necessary as we anced, forcing our way through Having passed the village of Tlamanalco, we began soon ridge, sometimes half buried in the snow, and advancing at the the snow, which lay to thepth of more than three feet, to imminent risk of being precipitated in the deep valley on our pause after having taken to our four steps in order to re-

when they beheld for the first time the broad empire of Mon- | ped by an impassable obstacle which interposed itself in our | At ten o'clock A. M. the advance of the party reached the trace our steps to our camp and resume the attempt on the path we had pursued in the ascent, supporting ourselves with our alpine poles until the declivity became comparatively I will give only my own opinion of the dimensions of the smooth and gentle, when the soft snow, spread over the survillage of Ozumba, about forty-five miles southeast by south face of the smooth sand, enabled us to descend with rapidity. from the city of Mexico. We had now proceeded so far in a We had not reached the upper edge of the forest on our resoutherly direction that the summit of the mountain, which is about southeast of the city, was seen in a direction nearly their entire contents upon our devoted heads during the whole day, cleared away and exposed to our view what we had so much desired in the morning, a magnificent view of the moundirectly towards the summit, soon reached the hamlet of At- tain, together with the direction we had pursued in the aslontls, where we procured two Mexican guides to conduct us cent. We then discovered that the highest point we had reached was not far below the Pico del Fraile, and little more than two thousand feet from the summit of the mountain. the upper limit of the timber. From that point it would be Amidst the obscurity in which we had been involved we had is very distant from its base. The right section of either of the prospect of increasing our exports and imports to more ecessary to rely solely upon our own resources, as nothing wandered from the true direction, and followed, as far as was

Having returned to our camp, several of the party made the necessary preparations to resume the attempt at an early hour on the following morning ; but, when the time appoint- tain. This diameter, I think, does not exceed a quarter of a ed for starting arrived, our eyes were so seriously affected by the exposure on the preceding day to the extreme cold of this four hundred to six hundred feet; the difference of depth mulate from the constant melting of the snow. In order to elevated region as to render us totally blind. We were obligcross these barrancas the path is cut in many places into the ed, therefore, to relinquish the undertaking, and thought it earth, leaving on both sides, for considerable distances, per- advisable to return to the more equable temperature of the pendicular banks fifteen or twenty feet in height; and, as plains. What rendered this retreat more vexatious was the there is only room for a single mule to pass with his pack, the fact, as was said, that the day was beautiful and highly propitious to our designs. It having been, however, a perfect

It was not without much difficulty that we succeeded in reaching, on the evening of the 8th, the villages of Ozumba along its crest, we began gradually to escend above the culti- the morning of the 9th, the scattered members of our party. vated valley. We had risen several hundred feet, and were We here found ourselves so much recovered from the effects beginning to obtain a very extensive view, when, our path of our exposure on the meuntain that several of the party deturning short to the right and descending from the crest which termined to return, and, awaiting a more favorable day, make it had hitherto pursued, we were at once involved amidst the another attempt to reach the summit. Having, by the morndeep barrancas and almost impenetrable forests of the moun- ing of the 10th, made the necessary preparations, we retraced with this view the path we had rejuctantly descended ; and, country but his own, the view of a forest, however magnifi- threading our way once more along the deep barraneas and through the dark shadows of the mountain forest, pitched our thy of note; but those who have looked upon the wild scenery camp about a mile above its farmer position, on the crest of a ravine which afforded us a supply of the coldest water. Durrespects so bountiful in her gifts to this country, has left her ing our absence in the valley the weather had been remarks. fertile plains and tall mountains so naked and unsheltered. bly fine, and had served to dissolve much of the snow which They will, therefore, appreciate the new feelings which came had fallen during our first visit to the nountain : but the air over us upon this sudden transition from the unbroken giare was of a chilly coldness, and required the cheering warmth of of a tropical sun on a Mexican plain, to the cool recesses of a the blazing pine knots, which we found mout us in abundance. to dispel the gloom which it engenderd. The night was beautiful one, and the moon was sufficently old to cast her mild light, in magical tints, over the viley below and around the white summit which rose like a spetre above us.

At fifteen minutes before three o'clck on the morning the 11th April the party was again a motion. After proceeding about half a mile, we emergd from the forest, which terminates abruptly on account of th sandy soil, which here ness of the acclivity, to leave our hores, which we had ridden on our left, entered upon a very sup and sandy plain, included between this ridge and anotherwhich meets it at an angle

in the west, clothed in the illave charms of the early dawn While admiring the bold outline of the mountain, of which that the full glow of morning est upon our view in its brightrying scenes which were spres around us. Nothing could came successively over the bratening landscape as the tall mountain casts its conical shady across the valley and on the distant hills, and for a long timobscured the country and vil lages at its base in the uncertaintoom of early morning, while

> Passing over the rugged toination of the sandy valley along which we had ascended, e Pico del Fraile, a porphy ed, and on a clear morning to be distinctly seen from the city of Mexico, on the wester rofile of the volcano. My at tention, upon reaching this fat, was directed by one of the smoke which were rising ale the snow, considerably to the right of the summit. Thierved to indicate the position of the crater, and sufficiently plained the cause of the strong sulphurous odor we had enuntered far down the mountain. On the southeastern side the ridge on which the Pico del

Fraile is situated, extendir from near the crater to the forests about the base of the mourin, is a deep valley, the bottom of which is covered by sand d ice. In order to reach the point indicated by the smoke, itas first necessary, on account of the

way. We had reached the point of a rock which was the edge of the crater. The contrast presented by the bright glare termination of a part of the ridge, and in our front and on of the snow, which had so dazzled our sight during the ascent, either hand looked down a precipice of forty or fifty feet. The and the dark abyss which, upon climbing the last few feet, storm still blew around us with so much violence that we could yawned suddenly before us, was striking in the highest degree distinguish nothing beyond our position, and could not tell on what point of the mountain we stood; and, being unable to advance any further along this ridge, we determined to reremote from us. It is not strange, therefore, that the impres following day. In going down the mountain we followed the sions made on the minds of the different individuals compose

> were made by the rest of the party. The crater seems to be formed of three cylindrical surfaces. of about the same length, but slightly unequal diameters having a common vertical axis. The lower section of each cylinder is connected with the upper section of the one below broken masses of rocks falling from the sides and top of the crater have formed a similar surface connecting the lower cylinder with the bottom; so that the general form of the crater is that of an inverted frustrum of a cone whose vertex the cylinders would not materially differ from a circle. The lip of the crater, following the declivity of the mountain, is pital will be furnished to make this railroad, and that very an irregular illiptical figure, whose longest diameter is in the direction of a vertical section through the summit of the mounmile in length. The depth of the crater varies from perhaps different places being caused by the slope of the mountain-The centre of the crater is nearly southeast of the summit, which is so slightly removed from the highest part of the circumference that it may be regarded as forming one point of smoke was issuing in a constant stream from a crevice near the eastern side of the bottom, nearly opposite the point where

we stood, as well as occasionally from other parts of the interior. Considerable quantities of sublimated sulphur had seen deposited on the bottom and interior conical surfaces; and the quantity of sulphuretted hydrogen gas evolved from the crater was highly offensive and injurious. The first of the party succeeded in reaching the summit of the mountain, the highest point of land, with a single exception, in North America, at ten minutes past ten o'clock A. M. At twenty ninutes past ten o'clock, having attached a small flag to one f the poles which had been used in the ascent, we planted the "stars and stripes" firmly on the highest peak of Popccatepetl, overlooking the dark crater which was smoking The viewfrom this point is unsurpassed in extent and mag-

nificence. The eye looked in every direction, far as human vision can extend, upon almost boundless tracts of diversified nd enchanting prospect. To the north, and below us, was the white summit of Iztaccihuatl shrouded in clouds. Beyond it, and to the left, reposed the magnificent capital of the Aztecs, amidst the beautiful plains and placid lakes of the valley, shut in, as if by enchantment, by a chain of lofty mountains, which concealed its beauties from the surrounding world. To the south extended the fertile valleys of Atlixco and Cuernavaca, and the distant plains of Oaxser, enclosed between mountain chains, which appeared one beyond another, until lost in the rising mists of the tierra caliente. In the wes shone the snowy top of the Nevado de Toluca, and further to the north were the more distant plains of Morelia or Michoa can. To the east lay the city and vailey of Puebla, the celebrated pyramid of Cholula amidst the ruins of the ancien city, and, at the base of the Malinche, the mountain country of the Tiascalans. Further off were the more elevated table lands of Perote, and the remarkable "Cofre" above them while but a short distance from the sea-shore rose the hoary head of Orizava, glittering in the bright beams of the morning light. As the day advanced, the atmosphere, which had at first been unclouded, was oppressed with the mists which were cathering far below us. It was indeed a beautiful and singular sight to look upon the white clouds rising from the valleys sands of feet below us, and rolling their vapory masses in fleecy folds around the base of the mountain and over the distant plains, and darkening with their moving shadows vast tracts of the surrounding country, while the blue sky above us was unobscured by a single cloud.

On account of the very rarefied state of the atmosphere, and the sickening vapors which were constantly issuing from the crater, we found it necessary to descend much sooner than we desired. Leaving the summit about cleven o'clock A. M. we retraced our steps until we reached the head of the sandy valley which we had entered after passing the Pico del Fraile, and following down it, leaving the Fraile on our right, we easily arrived, after descending several miles, at its issue from and moving nearly in a horizontal direction around the base of But it was when we were classering over the steep acclivity the immense cone, we passed the lower termination of the which terminates this valley, attle below the Pico del Fraile, first ridges we had encountered in the ascent, and entering, the immense cone, we passed the lower termination of the near the upper edge of the forest, the pathway we had then made over the sand and snow, returned to our camp about one o'clock P. M.

As nearly as we can estimate the distance along the surface of the mountain, from the limit of vegetation to the top is about three or four miles. The snow extended on this mit. The thermometer, at half-past ten o'clock A. M., stood at 260 Palrenheit on the summit. On the 7th of April, it was at 22° Pahrenheit three thousand feet below that point The altitude of the summit, according to a geometrical measurement by Baron Humboldt, is 17,756 feet. According to barometrical measurement by Mr. Glennie, 17,896 feet; from a similar measurement by Mr. Ainslie it is 17,852 feet. Seventeen thousand eight hundred feet is the usual estimate for its height above the level of the ocean.

The following are the names of the persons who succeede in reaching the summit of the mountain :

Lieut, C. P. Stone, Ordnance Department; Lieut, S. B. Buckner, 6th Infantry . Lieut. R. H. Anderson, 2d Dragoons; Lieut, R. W. Kirkham, 6th Infantry; Capt. J. V. Bomford. 8th Infantry; Capt. S. H. Fowler, 5th Infantry; Mr. T. J. Baggaly, an English gentlemen residing in Mexico, and Professor in the National Academy of Arts; and three soldiers of the escort.

Our task being accomplished, we set out from our camp on the morning of the 12th, and, descending into the distant valley, crossed again over the beautiful country at the base of Iztac-cibuatt, and reached the city of Mexico on the morning of

the 14th, after an absence of twelve days. Wherever our future wanderings may lead us, it will be n were the first Americans who ever stood upon the snowy peak of the "Smoking Mountain," and planted our national color within the tropics in a clime of eternal winter, over a region of perpetual fire; where it is greeted by the first beams of the sun as he rises from the Atlantic, and receives his last parting look as he sinks behind the waves of the great Southern ocean S. B. BUCKNER.

## DREADFUL DISASTER ON LAKE HURON.

FROM THE CLEVELAND RERALD OF SEPT. 25. News reached this city on Saturday evening of the destruc-tion of the propeller Goliath, on Lake Huron, on Friday morning last. It is painful to say that more recent intelli-gence confirms the first report. The statement is that, about four o'clock on the morning above mentioned, the Goliath, when off Point aux Barques, in Lake Huron, bound for Saut St. Marie, with St. Merie with a cargo of merchandise, and about 100 kegs of powder for the miners in the copper regions, took fire, and, with a terrible explosion, was almost instantaneously

destroyed.

This fearful disaster was first announced on the authority of a man at Point aux Barques, who saw the fire and heard the explosion. But this morning Capt. Sweet, of the pro-peller Republic, arrived here from above, and says that he yesterday saw Capt. Fuller, of the schooner Spartan, who was within five miles of the Goliath at the time of the fire, distinctly saw it and heard the explosion, the force of which was so intense that it shook every timber in his vessel. He was unable to reach the wreck. We believe this is all that is at pre-sent known of the disaster. We learn that there were but few if any on board besides the captain and crew. The deep-est solicitude is felt in regard to their fate, and there is hope expressed that some may have been saved. If the fire broke out in a part of the propeller away from the powder, those on board may have immediately taken to the boats and abandoned her in time to escape the explosion.

FIRE IN AKRON .- About half-past one o'clock on the morning of the 21st ultimo, there was a great fire in Akron, (Ohio,) which destroyed a dozen or more business houses. The total loss is estimated at \$20,000.

### COMMUNICATION.

TRADE TO CHINA-No. II.

In the first number of these essays we tried to show the advantages to our country of trade to China, which can tances and apparent dimensions of objects which are at all be so expedited by a railroad from Memphis, on the Mississippi, to Monterey, on the Pacific, as to cause goods to be ivered in New York in the short space of twenty days, re quiring only thirty two days to Liverpool; and, in conclusion, asked the question, Will it be accomplished? crater-remarking that my estimates are as small as any which

We think we may give the positive answer, It will. By a great, patriotic, wealthy nation, so well versed in commerce, and having agricultural products so immense that the whole of Europe look to us in times of scarcity; and fast becoming manufacturing country, which, although in its infancy compared with European manufactures, is successfully competing in the manufacture of some articles and excelling in many; with a product of cotton of more than two millions of bales, which is annually increasing, and it is believed will soon be three millions; with the large amount of property of our citisoon, by those who will consult their interests.

The prospect of profit from transportation of mer and passengers, the certainty of continuance, and no rivalry by sea or by land, securing the carrying trade from these heretofore remote but wealthy regions to Europe, will be inducements to investment in this grand project. The impertance will be more apparent by further contemplating some of the advantages of this trade, when we take a view of its extent and value.

The completion of this system of commercial intercoun important to much of the mercantile world, as it would in a few years turn the balance of trade with China in our favor, and make New York what London now is, the great settling-place of the world. The situation of our country, being midway between Europe and Asia, with railroads connecting lines of steamships and telegraphs, our communications would be looked to and extended with such facility each way not submit. that we would be relied on for information from the world of commerce, which would give indefinite expansion to our trade by the impulse we would give to intercommunications.

To take into consideration the commercial condition of Asia, accessible only by voyages around the stormy capes to Japan, the Chinese empire, the Pacific and Indian seas, which contain three-fourths of the population of the globe, (of the estimate of eight hundred millions in the whole world, it is be- to and through our country and ports to European markets, lieved six hundred millions inhabit the countries washed by not subjected to the control of the unwise edicts of a monarch these seas, ) would be convincing to the most projudiced mind of or a despot, for the gratification of private ambition, or to the great advantage of this trade. These six hundred millions tain a tottering throne. have been remarkably behind the two hundred millions in the improvement and art of ship-building, navigation, and com- who see their interests and are capable of securing the advanmercial information and enterprise. Their ill-constructed, tages of such improvements to their country. They will not poorly-rigged, and imperfectly-manned junks and preas were be long in bringing it into successful operation. They will only intended for creeping along in sight of shore. The Asi- see, from the advantages, the balance of trade is against us atics say to the white-winged vessels from beyond the black more than half a million of dollars, notwithstanding the long waters is consigned the business of carrying to and from them voyages round the Capes, requiring four-fifths more time, and commercial products which have been heretofore, to a limited amount, conveyed by long voyages round the Capes.

What would be the demand if the communications the contemplated commercial arrangements, it is not to be sup- apples have been shipped to England-a profitable article of the unchangeable diet of rice, their only food, when, by the ports. exchange of the products of labor they can obtain bread, meat, comparison with the use of opium; notwithstanding the deletery by the English.

What a field for temperance societies and missionary labors other nation. among that people! So soon as they are convinced of the ntentions of our country being nothing but fair and honorable trade, managed with fairness and dispatch, they will soon know and esteem our people and prefer our trade, as friends of their country, from whom they will take lessons of morali-

Thus, by means of the railroad to the Pacific, we have in a orief manner shown a few of the many commercial advantages of trade to Asia, whose dense population are paid less for labor than any people in the world. So secluded, and consequently ignorant of the great improvements of the age, are they, that they will require a long time to compete with American enterprise and industry in arts, science, and manufacture. As they will be indebted to us for commerce and the improvement day about four thousand feet in a vertical line from the sum- of their trade, which we will have brought within a few days of their shores, they will be disposed to place us in their most hour. friendly relations, preferring our people, our trade, and our country to that of twenty millions of dollars in the more than worthless article of opium, for which they have had to pay in the products of their country or in gold and silver to Eucland.

The balance of trade in favor of England and against China being so large, amounting in 1844 to \$12,142,900; which had to be paid in specie, and of which a large amount was smuggled into China in a prohibited article, (opium,) the trade to England does not stand in the same favorable position as that of our country. The cotton shipped from the English East Indies is inferior to ours, and the quality of the cotton goods of an inferior texture to ours. The small amount of Chinese products taken by England in comparison to the amount of her shipments to China, compared with our better, more durable cotton goods, and raw cotton much superior; the article of lead, much in demand and needed to pack teas; ginseng, of more importance than opium, having none of its deleterious effects; in addition, having accompanied our adventures with specie, (in 1814, of \$1,125,700,) places our trade in a favorable and interesting position, to which we may calculate a partiality at this time. So, if our intercourse were furnished with the necessary link in the connexion of this grand project of the railroad to the Pacific, we could not possibly calculate on considerable source of gratification to us to know that we any thing but success. But their advantages will be the subject of future consideration in this important project. OPITHLOCO.

# TRADE TO CHINA-No. III.

In further contemplating this important trade, we must admire the many natural productions found in and near the direct line necessary to success in this grand project, as developed by a scientific gentleman of the navy, Lieut. Magny, who has given important information to aid us in progress and success. He has showed the distance and course across the Pacific to China; that we can be conveniently and cheaply supplied with the article of stone coal, so essential to success, as if a kind Providence, anticipating our project, has bouncously furnished this article, conveniently placed to our purpose." Near San Diego, on the Pacific, south of Monterey, and within six miles of the shore, this article is found on the top of the ground, and in abundance. At the mouth of the Columbia river, in Oregon, north of Monterey, now visited by our mail steamers from Panama, coal is so convenient and abundant that it has been sold by the Indians for less than one dollar per ton. Both these deposites are within the range of our mail steamers passing Monterey from each point. The coasting trade from either side will bring this article to the point of departure for China.

half way, are the Aleutian, or Fox Islands, belonging to the empire of Russia, convenient for a deposite of coal, at the proper distance, on the direct line to Shanghae, without the necessity of diverging from a direct course. Shanghae is the most important commercial city in China, near the mouth of the longest river in the empire, extending to the extreme interior; and, in its meandering, watering the richest and most productive sections, on which is the city of Boutchang, with the commander, Captain Meterna, is a fine looking man, and improductive sections, on which is the city of Boutchang, with the commander, Captain Meterna, is a fine looking man, and improductive sections, on which is the city of Boutchang, with the commander, Captain Meterna, is a fine looking man, and improductive sections, on which is the city of Boutchang, with the commander, Captain Meterna, is a fine looking man, and improductive sections, on which is the city of Boutchang, with the commander, Captain Meterna, is a fine looking man, and improve the first vessel of the Turkish being Ararat, Captain Meterna, the first vessel of the Turkish being Ararat, Captain Meterna, the first vessel of the Turkish being Ararat, Captain Meterna, the first vessel of the Turkish being Ararat, Captain Meterna, the first vessel of the Turkish being Ararat, Captain Meterna, the first vessel of the Turkish being Ararat, Captain Meterna, the first vessel of the Turkish being Ararat, Captain Meterna, the first vessel of the Turkish being Ararat, Captain Meterna, the first vessel of the Turkish being Ararat, Captain Meterna, the first vessel of the Turkish being Ararat, Captain Meterna, the first vessel of the Turkish being Ararat, Captain Meterna, the first vessel of the Turkish being Ararat, Captain Meterna, the first vessel of the Turkish being Ararat, Captain Meterna, the first vessel of the Turkish being Ararat, Captain Meterna, the first vessel of the Turkish being Ararat, Captain Meterna, the first vessel of the Turkish being Ararat, Captain Meterna half way, are the Aleutian, or Fox Islands, belonging to the to the time of sailing." 400,000 inhabitants, Nankin 500,000, and several on and near this river of two and three hundred thousand, with two within the last dozen years.—Boston Traveller of Friday.

more cities on connecting lakes of 300,000 each; an evidence of the fertility of the country on this river alone, which is 2, 800 miles long, sustaining this great population in so many entires also an evidence of a large product and trade to Shanghae, extensive, and in the centre of the millions of inhabitants. This will in some measure show the importance of this trade.

Shanghae is the most important port, and the most healthy, where the greatest amount of the product of teas, silks, misneral and agricultural products are to be met by our commerce. Pekin is north of Shanghae, connected by a river a short distance with the Yellow sea, or bay, at the city of Tesutsin, caff 700,000 inhabitants. The city of Pekin has 1,500,000. The transportation from these cities is by Chinese junks, through the Yellow sea, to Shanghae, in latitude 32° 25 north, where some snow falls in winter. The females of this city, it is said, are the most beautiful known.

Canton has 1,000,000 of people, and has been the cos which has had the principal foreign trade, where the consult and commercial agents reside. It is about ten degrees sonth of Shanghae; a more unhealthy location. But our steamers in this trade can run down the coast to Canton, and, on the way, on the eastern extremity of the Island of Formose, which zens in the Pacific, in the whaling and other business; with is 220 miles long, and has 2,500,000 of inhabitants, a sorpply of coal can be obtained, and also at Shanghae. In this than forty millions of dollars, (a very moderate estimate,) ca- way we can reach the trade of three hundred millions of people, and on our return meet the direct line at the Fox Islands, if necessary, having visited the principal commercial cities of the empire, the products of which are raw silks, silk goods, camphor, rhubarb, quicksilver, porcelain ware, and many other articles of value.

To accomplish this grand project, and secure the advantages of this trade, we must complete a railroad from Meraphis to Monterey, 1,500 miles. We cannot retrograde in the march of improvement in which our country has been so distinguished for science and perseverance, in the advancement of some improvements and useful discoveries. Successful in agriculture, in commerce, and soon will be in manufactures, this railroad is requisite; it must and will be made by our own country. The nations of Europe would willingly secure the advantages of this short route, and probably would agrees at their own expense, to make the road. This would be are indignity to our thirty sovereign States, to which they will

The construction of this railroad will not only give us access to the trade to China, but to Japan, British India, the many rich islands in the Indian ocean, and the South American ports in the Pecific, from which the distance to European ex American markets on the Atlantic would be shortened to a voyage around the Capes. The increased amount of trade could not be estimated that would make its way over this roud.

It will be done by a nation of twenty millions of sovereigns. consequently limiting our shipments to such articles only as will pay the transit, excluding many that are too bulky, on such as would not admit of the long sea voyage. But when direct and frequent ? The convenience of new and useful we have secured the railroad, many will be the articles of articles inspires a taste and desire for more, and extends the produce sent forward by this direct route, more safe and cerimagination to necessary additions, and appending wants and tain, and in less than one-fifth the time, round the Capea. uses, to harmonize with those obtained. With the dispatch of It is only since the steam packets have been in operation that posed the laboring classes in China will live and die in the use of export-and a large amount in this article is sent to English

The present is perhaps the most propitious time to serure and butter. These our country, from its western stores, will a preference in the trade to China. Our exports to these not only furnish in abundance, but others, which, by constant country have been in valuable articles, in demand and useful. and familiar intercourse with our people, the Asiatics will soon with a considerable sum in specie and lead; also, raw cotton, learn and want and use in profusion; and the will be found a good article; cotton fabrics, more durable to the consumer. market not only for articles of provisions, but necessaries from our abundance of the raw material presenting no deleperhaps not yet known to the Chinese, and with them many sive quality from artificial means; and ginseng, an article of uxuries, innocent in their effect, convenient, and valuable, in luxury to the Chinese, inoffensive in its use, so limited in amount that an excess can never be introduced, of which we rious effects of which, and the prohibitory enactments of the will be the only shippers. The many valuable articles that authorities against its introduction into China, an amount ex- will be in demand never sent out by any other nation, which ceeding other valuable exports was struggled into that coun- will become frequent and abundant by the short route, will cause China to prefer and cherish our trade to that of any OPITHLOCO

## THE SHREWD BETTER

In some States laws exist against betting on elections, the penalty being distranchisement. Such a law, however, does not exist in New Hampshire; and so the glorious privilege is

Not long since a limb of the law (not a little twig, but pretty muscular limb) from Rockingham county chanced to be at Concord; and in course of conversation with the great dons who manufacture public opinion, and dissemin through the Patriot, to the sources from whence it through the Patriot, to the sources from whence it seems come, the topic turned, like a needle to the pole, to the Passidential election. A recent editor of the Patriot could discern the political skies clear and bright for Cass; but not as the one with whom he was conversing; there was to him a thick mist between Cass and the White House, dark as Egypt, and almost as dense as the smoke in Gass's bar-room after and almost as dense as the smoke in Gass's bar-room Governor S. had been puffing a long nine there for half ar

"Well, if you doubt that Cass will be elected, what will

"O, I never bet, nor want to. Taylor will be elected with out any betting : but, if I were disposed to bet, I feel certain that I should win." "There ! I see you are afraid ; I'd take you up at almost

any stake. You know Cass is the man, and so you won't "Well, Colonel, I'il tell you what it is ; if you insist on

betting, I'm ready. Let us see; there are thirty States. PB bet twenty-five dollars that Taylor will carry fifteen States that I can name, and ten dollars on each of the other States, that he will carry them also." "Why, man, you are crazy!"

"I may be, but the money is not; so put down your hundred and seventy-five dollars against mine, if you dare."

The bet was accepted, and the crazy man began to warks

down the fifteen States which he betted twentydown the fifteen States which he betted twenty-live dollars upon—New Hampshire, Virginia, South Carolina, Alabara, Mississippi, Illinots, Missouri, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arksonas, Texas, Indiana, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Maine; thus put ting down the fifteen States on which the Locos place the most reliance.

"But, sir, you can't hope for one of these excepting the four last! If these are your best States, Cass will be certain of the whole Union."

"Cass won't get all these fifteen by two chalks; but supse he does, and you get my twenty-five dollars, why the I have for certain Massachusetts, Connecticut, Verment, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida—fifteen pretty good States; at any rate, good enough to secure me a hundred and twenty-five dollars, after

I have paid you my twenty-five doilars, as I reckon!"

The Colonel was dumbfounded. And ever since, as a exp-The Colonel was dumorounded.

The Co bet come on " he shrugs up his shoulders, and u more rapid steps.—Portsmouth (N. H.) Journal.

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTS .- The New York Journal of Commerce publishes the following information relative to the transportation of troops to California :

transportation of troops to California:

"Two large ships, having an aggregate of more than sixteen bundred tons, were at first taken up, in which, and im the United States steamer Massachusetts, the 2d Infantry was to be embarked for California." The latter yearsel having insufficient room for a proper complement of men, a third have was taken up in her stead, of between six and seven hundred tons; the three having ample accommodations between declaration of the regiment. These ships have also cabin accommodations for all the efficers, including their families. ommodations for all the efficers, including their families colless the size of the latter (not known with any precision of ourse) considerably surpasses the estimate made intended to restrict either officers or men as to baggage. The Massachusetts takes out the two companies of Artillery destined for Oregon. A fourth ship is to be taken up, in some The distance from Monterey to Shanghae is ascertained by Lieut. Maury to be 5,400 miles. On the route, and about at Old Point Comfort, unless they are sent on here previously